

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH/MPH

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE

S/S: MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA REQUESTS MEETING JULY 30 WITH SECRETARY

REF: STATE 167325

1. NIGERIAN DCM OBE TELEPHONED AF/W DIRECTOR JULY 21 TO SAY THAT EMBASSY HAD JUST RECEIVED REQUEST BY TELEPHONE FROM NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GARBA FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY JULY 30. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, OBE SAID HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT KNOW THE SUBJECTS GARBA WISHED TO DISCUSS BUT HE ASSUMED THEY INCLUDED RHODESIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. OBE SAID GARBA WOULD ARRIVE FROM EUROPE JULY 30 AND THEN RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO LAGOS FOR A MEETING OF NIGERIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION IN AFRICAN POSTS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 1 - 4. GARBA WOULD THEN GO TO THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND FOLLOW THAT WITH A MEETING OF NIGERIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION IN ASIA IN INDIA. OBE COMMENTED THAT THE REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WAS MADE SOON AFTER A MEETING OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND HE ASSUMED
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THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE SUPREME MILITARY

COUNCIL. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE GARBA ATTACHES TO THIS MEETING, SAYING THAT GARBA WOULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE U.S. TO MEET THE SECRETARY. GARBA, HE SAID, HOPES

FOR A RESPONSE BY THE WEEKEND OF JULY 24-25.

2. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE REGARDING THE SUBJECTS GARBA MAY WISH TO DISCUSS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE REASONS FOR THIS ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM RECENT NIGERIAN POLICY. PARA 1 REFTEL REPORTS AMBASSADOR SANU AS SAYING SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LAGOS ON CONSULTATIONS THAT THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR NEW NIGERIAN INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. THUS, SANU SAID, PROPOSALS FOR HIGH LEVEL VISITS WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER AN ENTHUSIASTIC FMG RESPONSE UNTIL AFTER NEXT JANUARY.

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE181979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH/MPH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760283-0774
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760727/aaaaaxpb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 167325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GARBA REQUESTS MEETING JULY 30 WITH SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI, XJ, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GARBA, JOSEPH N)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006